Georgia Tech Enterprise Innovation Institute
Safety, Health, and Environmental Services

# Respirable Crystalline Silica Air Sampling Data From Cut Stone Industry in Georgia

- 86% of ALL samples exceeded the Action Level (AL) of 25 µg/m3
- With Controls: Samples Where Wet Methods, Ventilation, or Both were used averaged 2 times the Permissible Exposure Limit (PEL) and ranged from 9.6 to 370 µg/m3
- Without Controls: Dry Cutting, Polishing, and Fabrication resulted in exposures 34 to 46 times the Permissible Exposure Limit (PEL) and ranged from 1700-2300 µg/m3
- Water and Ventilation Did NOT reduce exposures below the PEL when fabricating Engineered Stone (Quartz) countertops due to the high silica content in this product.

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| 8 | **Number of Companies Assisted** |
| 10 | Number of Visits Conducted |
| 46 | Number of Full-Shift Samples |
| 227 | µg/m3 average silica for all samples |

**Employees Fabricating Stone that Contains Silica Should:**

- Receive Hazard Communication Training for Silica
- Be provided and fitted for respiratory protection
- Be enrolled in a silica exposure medical surveillance program
- Use Tools fitted with Water and Ventilation to reduce dust

**Inhalation of Respirable Crystalline Silica is Associated with:**

- Lung Cancer and COPD
- Silicosis
- Tuberculosis (TB)
- Auto Immune Disorders
- Kidney Disease

**Hear Ever's Story about being Diagnosed with Silicosis**

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**CONTACT US** FOR MORE INFORMATION

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